Cities in Sikkim under Urban Basic Service Programme

1330. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being adopted for selecting the cities under Urban Basic Service Programme; and

(b) whether it is a fact that no city in Sikkim has been selected under the programme; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The criteria for Selection are:—

(i) Where the Urban growth rate is disturbingly fast and basic services are not available to a majortiy of slum population;

(ii) Where UNICEF assisted urban projects are in satisfactory progress; and

(iii) Where convergance of services is possible with other UNICEF supported programmes as well as with other Government sponsored urban programmes.

(b) No city in Sikkim could be selected as no UNICEF assisted project was under implementation in Sikkim which is one of the conditions for selection of towns for coverage under the UBS Scheme.

Pre-recruitment coaching to the physically handicapped persons

1331. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pre-recruitment coaching is being provided to the persons under the handicapped category for recruitment tests by the UPSC, Staff Selection Commission, etc. on the pattern that is being imparted to the able-bodied S.C. and S.T. candidates;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to do the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Whilst SC/ST are eligible for all jobs, the question of employment for handicapped has to be considered keeping in view the capacity of the handicapped for different types of jobs. Accordingly, identification of suitable jobs in Ministry/Public Sector Undertaking has been carried out & 3% of vacancies in Group C & D have been reserved for them. Various training units have been set up by Government & voluntary agencies with a view to equip the handicapped persons for suitable jobs keeping in view their disability.

Concession in application fees to handicapped persons

1332. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handicapped category enjoys concession in the application fees for the various Government jobs as are available to the SC/ST applicants;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to provide concession to the handicapped applicants in application fees for Government services and how soon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has reserved 3 per cent vacancies in group C and D for the handicapped and in such cases no application fee is charged.